

Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=12AF792B39CC4B4FA8089976F3F8859F-LFAETH]
Sent: 3/29/2018 3:12:31 PM
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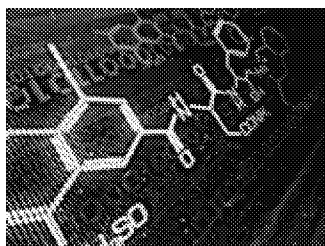
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Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

[Chemical Makers Worry Steep New EPA Fees Could Stifle Innovation](#)



Chemical manufacturers are concerned that hefty new EPA fees to support premarket reviews could stifle innovation and pose a barrier to bringing new chemicals to market.

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

EDF Signals New Chemical-Specific Path To Target EPA SNURs Under TSCA

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is warning that a draft EPA rule allowing a new use of an existing chemical is "legally vulnerable," suggesting a new chemical-specific path for environmentalists to challenge EPA's approval of new chemical uses under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Pruitt foes buy ad time during Trump's favorite TV shows

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 28, 2018



Environmentalists launched an ad campaign in an attempt to oust U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt from office. NationalSierraClub/YouTube

Environmental groups are taking their campaign to force U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt from office to a new domain: President Trump's television screen.

Ten green organizations have banded together to launch a new effort aimed at removing Pruitt. The "Boot Pruitt" campaign begins today with the Sierra Club running television ads on what are considered Trump's favorite morning shows, Fox News' "Fox & Friends" and MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

The [ad](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/03/28/stories/1060077647) highlights Pruitt's critical comments of Trump during the 2016 campaign — calling Trump an "empty vessel" when it comes to the Constitution and rule of law — as well as the EPA chief's penchant for first-class travel. The ads will air today, tomorrow and Friday.

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/03/28/stories/1060077647>

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

Canada draft assessment: DGEBA and novalac epoxy resins are safe

Substances associated with adverse effects on spleen and skin

28 March 2018 / Canada, Environmental Protection Act, Risk assessment, Sensitisers



A Canadian government assessment has provisionally concluded that four epoxy resins used in paints, coatings and plastics are not harmful to humans or the environment.

The substances are three diglycidyl ethers of bisphenol A (DGEBA; BADGE) epoxy resins (Cas nos 25036-25-3, 25068-38-6 and 25085-99-8) and a novolac epoxy resin (Cas no 28064-14-4).

They are all polymers, used as intermediates in the manufacture of other substances. This is in petroleum production processes to prevent corrosion and build-up, and:

- plating agents;
- adhesives and sealants in grout;
- flooring; concrete; and
- lubricants and lubricants additives.

DGEBA epoxy resins are made by polymerisation of the monomers bisphenol A and epichlorohydrin, via DGEBA.

Novolac epoxy resins are made by the same process to form novolac, followed by epoxidation using epichlorohydrin.

Both types of resin contain highly reactive epoxy groups, associated with potential adverse effects on the spleen, as well as skin sensitisation. The draft risk assessment identifies these effects as the "critical" ones for characterising the risk to human health.

The authors say that consumers could be exposed to residual DGEBA as a result of migration into food from food packaging materials containing DGEBA epoxy resins. But even using a "worst-case scenario" the daily intake would be low, corresponding to a low overall risk of harm to human health.

The assessment concludes that none of the substances meet any of the criteria set out in section 64 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (Cepa).

Next steps

The government prioritised the substances in a previous round of screening under its Chemicals Management Plan. Assessments conducted under the plan do not normally include consideration of occupational exposure.

The government has initiated a 60-day public consultation on the draft screening assessment, meaning interested parties have until 23 May to submit comments.

Further Information:

- [Draft screening assessment](#)

Survey on REACH restriction for PFASs extended

29 March 2018 / Europe, PFCs, REACH

A survey launched to help develop a restriction [proposal](#) under REACH on PFASs (C4-C7) and other fluorinated substances, has been extended by a month.

The survey, carried out by the Ökopol Institute for Ecology and Politics for Germany's environment agency (UBA), was due to end this month, but following a number of requests the deadline has been pushed back to 15 April.

The UBA is collecting information on the manufacture and use of short-chain PFASs with the aim of identifying risks to the environment and/or human health that should be restricted under REACH.

In a paper published in late February in *Environmental Sciences Europe*, Stephan Brendel from the UBA and others looked at short-chain perfluoroalkyl acids with a particular eye on environmental concerns and the need for a regulatory strategy under REACH.

They concluded that "due to an increasing use of short-chain PFASs, an effective regulation is urgently needed. The concerns do not match the 'classical' concerns as defined under REACH, but are not of minor concern."

Data collection

Included in the agency's data collection is the availability of alternatives to the use of fluorinated compounds and the socio-economic impacts of any restriction.

The short-chain PFASs under scrutiny are those with chain lengths <7 perfluorinated carbon atoms. They include:

- per- and polyfluorinated carboxylic acids (PFCAs);
- fluorotelomer alcohols (FTOHs);
- fluorotelomer iodides (FTIs);

- fluorotelomer acrylates (FTAs) and fluorotelomer methyl acrylates (FMAs); and
- per- and polyfluorinated sulfonic acids (PFASs).

Polymeric substances that are generated out of these building blocks are also within the UBA's scope.

Survey

The objective of the Ökopol survey is to increase information on:

- manufactured and imported amounts of the respective substance groups;
- manufactured and imported amounts of their potential alternatives;
- the type of uses the substances are applied to; and
- the economic effects that are linked to their use.

Ökopol says it is vital that survey respondents provide information on all the use cases they know of. This will, it says, help "avoid unintended consequences for market actors when a regulatory measure is implemented".

Related Articles

- [Germany and Sweden propose restrictions on six PFASs](#)

Further Information:

- [Ökopol survey extension](#)
- [PFASs regulatory strategy paper](#)

UK starts work on post-Brexit chemicals registration system

29 March 2018 / Substance registration, United Kingdom

The UK government has started work on the delivery of new IT capability, to enable the registration and regulation of chemical substances placed on the national market.

In a written answer to a question posed by an MP in mid-March, Junior environment minister Therese Coffey said that so far, the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has spent £330,000 on the "Alpha development phase" of the IT system for the registration of chemical substances.

She added that "no expenditure has been incurred to date on developing IT capability for the regulation of chemical substances as the initial phases of the project are focused on registration."

At the end of January the UK's Secretary of State for the Environment [authorised](#) spending of £5.8m (€6.64m) for the system.

The chemicals IT platform is one of six "planned EU Exit readiness activities" being carried out by Defra, for which it has asked £16m in advance of the EU Withdrawal Bill receiving royal assent – when the Queen formally agrees to make the bill into an Act of Parliament (law).

In related news, a Chemical Watch [survey](#) has found that just 12 months to go before Britain is expected to leave the EU, a third of UK-based companies are actively organising or planning to move some of their operations out of the country because of the regulatory uncertainty.

Chemical Watch is holding its [second workshop](#) on post-Brexit options for UK chemicals law in London on 17 April.

Related Articles

- [UK authorises £5.8m for post-Brexit chemical registration IT](#)
- [Brexit uncertainty forcing UK-based firms to act](#)

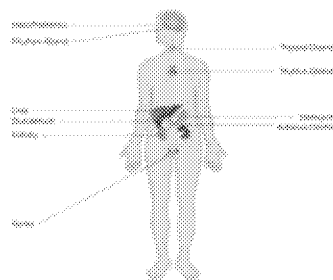
Further Information:

- [Parliament Q&A](#)
- [Chemical Watch Brexit Survey 2018: Infographic](#)

Commission comes under fire for 'patronising' approach to EDCs in EU

NGOs, scientists participate in public hearing on health impact

29 March 2018 / EDCs, Europe



The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, faced fresh criticism from the European Parliament's environment committee (Envi) and NGOs at a public hearing about its handling of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

At one point in the 22 March proceedings, Envi vice-chair Pavel Poc told Commission representatives "I would really appreciate if your approach to this was not so self-righteous and patronising".

The hearing was organised jointly by Envi and the Petitions Committee (Peti). Speakers included experts from EU and national regulatory agencies and representatives of academia and NGOs.

It was organised in response to what the Parliament called "a high number" of petitions from citizens expressing concern over EDCs.

Threat of censure

During the hearing Mr Poc referred to an attempted motion of [censure](#) MEPs aimed at the Commission as far back as 2016 for its delay in publishing scientific criteria on EDCs. That motion had lapsed after several key MEPs withdrew their support for it but, Mr Poc warned, the outcome of a similar motion now might be different.

He said the next time the issue is debated the Commission should consider whether it has done everything it could and "should have in mind this one simple fact": MEPs could support the motion of censure.

In October last year Parliament vetoed the Commission's criteria proposal and asked it to come up with a new proposal "without delay", after MEPs argued the Commission had exceeded its mandate.

Two months later, in December, the EU's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) adopted revised EDC criteria in December. The proposal is currently undergoing scrutiny by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

NGO push

During the debate Natacha Cingotti from the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) called for a "coherent EU strategy" on EDCs addressing a diverse range of product groups, such as cosmetics, toys and food contact materials.

Action is "long overdue" and member states such as Denmark, France and Belgium would take individual measures if the Commission fails to act decisively, she added.

ClientEarth's Alice Bernard said the EU is obliged to control EDCs under the 7th Environment Action Plan. She called for more resources to facilitate effective controls.

However, Peter Korytar, policy officer at the Commission's environment directorate, said EDCs are not "unattended" in EU legislation. They are included in all chemicals regulations, he said, with specific provisions in some.

He said the Commission will publish a report "in a few weeks" in which it will set priorities for future work on the substances.

Scientists urge no delay

Scientists at the hearing said decisions should not be deferred on the basis that further research is needed, as enough tools are available to regulators.

Alberto Mantovani, a professor from the Italian Health Institute, suggested as the way forward a "mode-of-action driven approach" to support risk assessment and risk reduction. MoA refers to cellular changes, rather than molecular.

Daniel Dietrich, from the University of Konstanz in Germany, said natural and synthetic EDCs should be considered together – as the former also cause adverse effects. He gave the examples of sugar and yellow mustard. "It is a matter of dose and risk," he added.

Olwenn Martin from Brunel University in London disagreed, saying that while individuals can control their sugar intake, they must depend on policy makers to control chemical substances. She also urged wider free dissemination of more data on EDCs.



Clelia Oziel

Reporter

Related Articles

- [Commission EDCs censure motion fails as MEPs withdraw signatures](#)
- [European Parliament rejects EDC criteria](#)
- [EU pesticides committee adopts revised EDC criteria](#)

Further Information:

- [Envi press release](#)

Sweden advocates developing microplastic restrictions at EU level

29 March 2018 / Microplastics, Sweden

A Swedish investigation into whether further national restrictions on microplastics in cosmetics and other chemical products are needed concluded that such action would be better carried out at EU level in the first instance.

Sweden's chemical agency Kemi, which carried out the research, says "the work being done at EU level on restriction proposals could result in reliable decision material and clear and harmonised rules and regulations which would also be cost-effective".

The investigation follows the Swedish government's decision in [February](#) to ban microplastics with a cleansing, exfoliating or polishing effect in rinse-off cosmetics products.

With the ban already planned, the government asked Kemi in 2017 to look at the occurrence of microplastics in certain cosmetics products that are not covered by the prohibition.

The agency says its assessment is based on "striking a balance between environmental concerns and the consequences of a national restriction.

"Our assessment has also taken account of the uncertain level of knowledge we have about microplastics."

Defining microplastics as solid plastic particles smaller than 5mm in any dimension and insoluble in water, Kemi identified polymers and waxes that might be microplastics in both cosmetics and chemical products. However, it says it does not have "sufficient material at present to assess with certainty which polymers ought to be designated as microplastics ..." It is therefore difficult, it says, to identify existing alternatives or replacements that can be developed.

Kemi estimates that between 0.2 and 4.4 tonnes of microplastics per year are emitted to the water environment from cosmetics products that are sold in Sweden.

Agency intentions

In the report Kemi says it plans to:

- participate in the development of restriction proposals on intentionally added microplastics in products at EU-level;

- act to encourage the EU Commission to consider the possibilities of introducing requirements on registration and evaluation in REACH for polymers;
- act to encourage voluntary measures to be taken in the sectors responsible for detergents and cosmetics;
- participate in work on microplastics standardisation;
- work to improve knowledge of microplastics in products through its ongoing mapping of hazardous substances; and
- act to improve coordination and dissemination of knowledge about plastic nanoparticles through the Swedish National Platform for Nanosafety.

The agency says it is committed to promoting greater knowledge on the part of researchers, public authorities and companies, especially regarding occurrence and properties of the smallest types that are used in products.

It also plans to speak with relevant industries to this end and to encourage the replacement of microplastics on a voluntary basis, such as in the cosmetics sector.

Sweden proposed the broadening of its [ban on microbeads](#) in rinse-off cosmetics to all products that release them last year.

Related Articles

- [Sweden adopts microbeads ban in rinse-off cosmetics](#)
- [Sweden considering wider restrictions on microplastics](#)

Further Information:

- [Report \(in Swedish with English summary\)](#)

US EPA to unveil 'secret science' details in coming weeks

Public consultation to be sought for transparency dialogue

29 March 2018 / TSCA, United States



The US EPA is preparing to make a formal announcement and solicit public feedback on its forthcoming 'secret science' policy changes within the next month.

Last week, news surfaced that the EPA was planning to unveil a [new policy](#) that would block it from using studies that are not publicly available as the basis for its regulatory decisions.

NGOs immediately raised the alarm that this change could "radically limit" the types of science used to develop public health and environmental protective policies.

The EPA press office has not responded to multiple requests for further details on what this change will include. But a source close to the issue told Chemical Watch this week that a more formal rollout will come in the next few weeks.

The initiative will entail a process for gathering ideas and information from interested stakeholders to begin a dialogue around the way the agency assesses science, according to the source. The goal will be to ensure that there is increased transparency in how the EPA evaluates the science underlying its regulatory decisions.

It was not immediately clear if this would take the form of a formal rulemaking or not.

Initial reports had indicated that the EPA's science policy would "mirror" the [HONEST Act](#) – a bill passed by the House a year ago, but which has not gained traction in the Senate. That bill calls for the science used by the agency to be "transparent and reproducible".

But Chemical Watch has been told that while the stalled legislation and the EPA's evaluation of how it looks at scientific studies are rooted in similar concerns, the latter may not be exactly in line with the former.

Nevertheless, concern at the new approach continues to swirl. Earlier this week former EPA administrator Gina McCarthy and former acting assistant administrator Janet McCabe wrote in the *New York Times* that the public should "[not] be fooled by this talk of transparency".

"[Administrator Pruitt, pictured] and some conservative members of Congress are setting up a nonexistent problem in order to prevent the EPA from using the best available science," they said.



Kelly Franklin

Editor, North America

Related Articles

- [TSCA could be undercut by 'secret science' requirements](#)
- [House passes US EPA science transparency bill](#)

Further Information:

- [NYT opinion](#)
- [HONEST Act](#)
- [EPA news release](#)

Automotive groups defend lead-acid batteries in California

29 March 2018 / Metals, United States



The automotive industry is pushing back on California's interest in evaluating lead-acid batteries under the Safer Consumer Products (SCP) programme.

Lead-acid batteries are one of seven product categories named in the Department of Toxic Substance Control's 2018-2020 [draft priority products work plan](#). These represent the candidates from which the DTSC may select 'priority products'. Once a product-chemical combination is designated, manufacturers must either undertake an alternatives analysis or phase out the substance's use.

The most frequent form of lead-acid batteries are 12-volt car batteries. The work plan additionally names, among others, 'small, sealed forms', including those used in consumer electronics, and batteries used for mobility, such as in scooters, golf carts and forklifts.

And while the products may contain three SCP candidate chemicals – lead, arsenic and sulfuric acid – industry groups are protesting their inclusion in the draft plan.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers – a coalition including major manufacturers like Mitsubishi, Volkswagen, General Motors and Volvo – said the product has "minimal potential for exposure" when in use.

And while there have been issues with the recycling of these batteries in the past (see box), it said, the "targeting of the entire automotive battery supply chain for the past mistakes of an individual 'bad actor' does not represent a science-based, data-driven approach to remedy any outstanding concerns associated with the product".

If the primary concerns exists with recycling and manufacture, it added, "these can be better addressed via other regulatory mechanisms".

Mema, the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association, which represents more than 1,000 companies who manufacture motor vehicle systems and component parts, said that lead-acid batteries do not meet the two primary criteria for a priority product listing. Namely, that there is:

- potential exposure to the chemical in the product; and
- potential that exposures contribute to or cause significant or widespread adverse impacts.

A priority product listing, it said "should be reserved for products that have the greatest impact on benefiting human health or the environment, provides the SCP programme the best chance of success, and is a legitimate use of DTC's resources and the resources of the industry that manufactures the product."

The [Green Chemistry Alliance](#) – a broad coalition incorporating more than a dozen major trade groups – cited lead acid batteries as an example where the work plan would conflict with state or federal regulatory programmes. "Every aspect of the product life-cycle is already highly regulated at both the state and federal levels," said the group.

"The department should [not] attempt to conflict with, duplicate the activities of other regulatory agencies or supersede the regulatory authority of other agencies – whether or not they've taken action to date on particular aspects of the full life cycle of products and chemicals."

Safer alternatives?

But ZincFive – a manufacturer of nickel-zinc based energy storage products – said that lead has been successfully removed from such applications as paint and gasoline, and that "viable, lead-free alternatives are now available in the form of lithium-ion and nickel-zinc batteries".

"California DTSC has the opportunity to make the monumental lead poisoning clean-up in Vernon the last of its kind and to make the lives of all Californians safer through designation of lead-acid batteries as a priority product," said the company.

However, the Battery Council International – a lead battery trade group – countered that these are "new and unproven battery technologies with known significant environmental and public safety risks, and unknown long-term impacts".

Exide Technologies

The inclusion of lead-acid batteries in the work plan follows a highly publicised toxic cleanup at Exide Technologies. The facility's activities – which included recycling scrap from spent lead-acid batteries – resulted in widespread lead contamination impacting as many as 10,000 properties.

In 2016, California Governor Jerry Brown cited Exide when he directed the DTSC to evaluate lead-acid batteries.

The work plan says the department has begun research on exposures and hazards associated with lead-acid batteries, and will continue that work. It held a public workshop on 6 November last year to begin this process.



Kelly Franklin

Editor, North America

Related Articles

- [California unveils 2018-2020 priority product work plan](#)
- [Industry seeks clarity in California SCP programme](#)

Further Information:

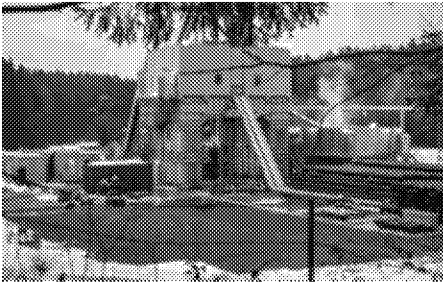
- [Draft plan](#)

- [Comment portal](#)

EU committee: knowledge of oil, gas health risks 'very poor'

Call for open access database

29 March 2018 / Accidents, emergency response & poison centres, Data, Europe, Halocarbons, Mining & minerals, Risk assessment



The quality of scientific assessment of possible public health risks posed by the EU's onshore oil and gas exploration and extraction activities is "very poor", according to the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (Scheer).

The committee estimates that over 1,300 different chemicals may be emitted to the environment from onshore oil and gas activities. These include biocides, scale and corrosion inhibitors, oxygen scavengers, surfactants and various hydrocarbons.

The Commission asked Scheer to assess the public health risks and to identify the main knowledge gaps. The committee found that most studies are from the US, with evidence pointing towards possible health effects. It expressed its "surprise at the very poor scientific assessment of the possible effects of these activities in the EU".

Although the probability of chemicals being released to the environment is relatively low under normal operation, there is a high risk of accidental spillages. The physico-chemical properties and environmental behaviour of the chemicals involved in oil and gas exploration differ widely. Some are transported in the air while others pollute water systems.

Included in the 1,300 chemicals are reproductive and developmental toxicants and carcinogens. The committee suggests that "the risk of some cancers and of adverse birth outcomes may be increased in populations living around onshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation sites". Yet the evidence is "weak to moderate".

Scheer found "insufficient" quantitative information on exposure pathways and levels. It also identified a need for more data from environmental monitoring and human biomonitoring. "With the existing information on exposure and hazard, it is currently not possible to perform a thorough risk characterisation of human health risk associated with oil and gas exploration and exploitation," it concluded.

The committee says it would like to see an open access, EU database of all chemicals involved in oil and gas activities. To characterise the hazardous properties of individual chemicals, it recommends using a weight-of-evidence approach with *in vivo* and *in vitro* data, as well as Qsar and read-across.

Human health risk will result from exposure to a mixture of chemicals, says the committee. The exact mixture composition and exposure concentration will vary over time and from site to site.

Further Information:

- [Scheer report](#)

Walmart aligns disclosure policy with Californian law

Retailer finds state's Cleaning Product Right to Know Act enough for suppliers to comply

29 March 2018 / Cleaning products, Confidentiality & right-to-know, Labelling, North America, Personal care, Retail, United States, Voluntary action



An update to US retailer Walmart's ingredient disclosure policy means that product suppliers can now comply with it, by adhering to California's list of chemicals of concern.

In 2013, the company [informed](#) its suppliers that it wanted online disclosure of products containing substances on its list of priority chemicals by 2015 and on labels by 2018. Walmart's priority chemicals are compiled from 22 regulatory lists.

However, they can now use California's list of chemicals, which will be required under the state's Cleaning Product Right to Know [Act](#), to check which substances need to be included on their product labels. Walmart has made the change to lessen the burden for suppliers, which would otherwise have to comply with two lists when California's requirements are implemented.

California's labelling requirements enter into force in 2021, while Walmart's have been in force since January.

Walmart's director of sustainability communications, Micah Ragland, told Chemical Watch: "In seeking closer alignment with California's [Act], our aim is to help enhance efficiencies for our suppliers and increase transparency and ingredient disclosures for our customers."

Work with HCPA

According to a three page statement, recently released by Jim Jones, at trade body the Household and Commercial Products Association (HCPA), his organisation worked with Walmart to "better align the company's ingredient transparency requirements with California's new law".

Commenting on suppliers having to adhere to both lists from 2021, Mr Jones, who was the former assistant administrator for chemical safety at the EPA, said that the "differences would make it challenging to comply".

In essence, he added, Walmart will expect suppliers to meet a more ambitious schedule than California, but "the substances of compliance will be the same".

The main difference between California's and Walmart's lists is that the retailer includes Minnesota's chemicals of concern that fall under the state's Toxic Free Kids Act. California's list contains around 3,200 substances, while Walmart's exceeds 4,000.

"This may appear to be a small win, but if you are a company that sells in California (almost all our members) and Walmart (almost all our members), even small differences in requirements can lead to extraordinary costs and time-consuming compliance," he said.

Mr Jones told Chemical Watch that the HCPA is reaching out to a large number of retailers, which are putting in place or have chemicals safety policies, including Target.

"The aim is to create greater dialogue so that they understand what suppliers can and can't do and how long it takes for them to do certain things, like the length of time it is possible to make a label change for example."

Products covered

Walmart's disclosure requirement covers "chemical-based" consumables products, sold through Walmart US and Sam's Club US stores. Departments and product categories covered are:

Walmart departments:

Health and beauty aids

Household paper

Pets and supplies

Household chemicals

Cosmetics and skincare

Infant consumable hardlines

Sam's Club categories:

Health and beauty aids

Tabletop and bags

Pet supplies

Laundry and home care

Baby care

Paper goods

Janitor supplies



Leigh Stringer

Global Business Editor

Related Articles

- [Walmart targets ten substances of concern in consumer products](#)
- [California cleaning disclosure bill unites NGOs and industry](#)
- [Minnesota updates chemicals of high concern list](#)

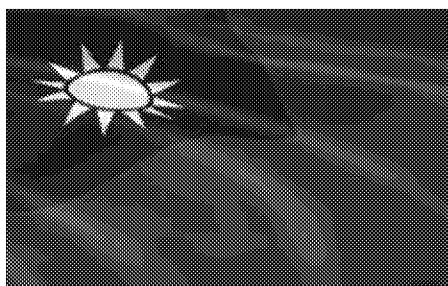
Further Information:

- [Walmart's supplier guidance](#)
- [California's Act](#)
- [Jim Jones statement](#)

Taiwan's draft Pecs list and registration changes expected April

TCSCA revisions also moving forward

29 March 2018 / New substances, Priority substances, Substance registration, Taiwan, TCSCA



Taiwan's Toxic and Chemical Substances Bureau says the publication of the long-awaited [draft revisions](#) to its registration process for new and existing chemical substances, together with a draft list of more than 100 priority existing chemicals (Pecs) is likely in April.

In an interview with Chemical Watch, Hsieh Yen-ju, director-general of the EPA's Toxic and Chemical Substances Bureau, said his agency recently submitted both documents to the office of EPA Minister Lee Ying-yuan.

Speaking on 26 March Mr Hsieh acknowledged that "industry concerns" had delayed the draft documents past their expected date of end of February. But the advance notice of 60 days of public comment on the changes should happen sometime in April, he said.

Draft revision of TCSCA under review

Mr Hsieh also said that a draft bill to revise the Toxic Chemical and Substances Control Act ([TCSCA](#)), which would be renamed the Toxic and Chemical Substances of Concern Control Act, is now being reviewed by the Social Welfare, Health and Environmental Protection Affairs Committee of the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan's parliament.

The Executive Yuan, Taiwan's Cabinet, had listed the draft package of changes as a "priority bill" for passage in the current legislative session, which will end in late June, Mr Hsieh said.

Dennis Engbarth in Taipei City

More available on [CW+AsiaHub](#).

Related Articles

- [Taiwan delays release of initial Pecs list](#)
- [Toxic chemical substances control act \(2017 draft revision\)](#)

- [Taiwan's draft Pecs list and registration changes expected April](#)

Swedish nano-platform launches new website

29 March 2018 / Nanomaterials, Sweden

The Swedish National Platform for Nanosafety – SweNanoSafe – has published a website aimed at improving communication and the exchange of knowledge on the safety of nanomaterials.

It is targeted at regulators, scientists, industry, NGOs, and others interested in the safety of nanomaterials.

In Swedish with some information in English, the SweNanoSafe website offers basic information and research on how nanomaterials are regulated in various areas, such as chemicals, cosmetics and the work environment.

Safety aspects of the substances concern their whole life cycle – synthesis, development, production, use and management of waste.

The site includes:

- a knowledge bank;
- Q&As;
- a calendar; and
- links to other sources of information mainly in Sweden and Europe.

It is part of the Swedish Toxicology Sciences Research Centre (Swetox) commission from the Swedish government to create a national platform for nanosafety.

Sweden has been proactive in setting controls on nanomaterials. A rule [requiring](#) companies in the country to notify data on nanomaterials in chemical products to the national chemicals agency's product register entered into force on 1 January this year. Companies have until 28 February 2019 to comply.

On a European level, in June last year Echa launched its EU observatory for nanomaterials (Euon), a public website aimed at increasing transparency of information on nanomaterials on the EU market.

It came after the Commission opted not to create an EU nano register, given delays in the introduction of new REACH information [requirements](#) for nanomaterials.

The impact of the website "will be [minimal](#)", the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) said in December.

Related Articles

- [Nano data will be added to Swedish product register next year](#)
- [Revise nano definition before amending REACH annexes, industry says](#)
- [Impact of EU nano observatory 'limited', RIVM says](#)

Further Information:

- [SweNanoSafe website](#)
- [Press release](#)

Global ban on animal testing hard to achieve, industry says

China could be biggest hurdle

29 March 2018 / Europe, Personal care, Test methods



The EU's call to establish a global ban on animal testing for cosmetics will prove challenging, say cosmetics industry groups.

Particular barriers, they say, include the lack of acceptance of alternative test methods internationally and getting countries that do not implement bans to reconsider their current approaches.

Last month, the European Parliament's Environment Committee (Envi) voted to advocate for a worldwide ban on animal testing for cosmetics by 2023.

It proposed drafting an international convention against the testing of animals for cosmetics within the UN framework, and called for it to be included on the agenda of the next UN General Assembly meeting.

But a Cosmetics Europe spokesperson told Chemical Watch, that despite efforts from the cosmetics industry, alternative replacement test methods have not yet been developed or accepted for all toxicological endpoints.

The EU testing and marketing ban, that entered into force in March 2013, covers all endpoints, irrespective of whether a full set of alternatives methods is available to replace corresponding animal studies.

The trade body said this has "severely limited" industry's ability to introduce new ingredients, use existing ones for new uses and respond to new questions regarding their safety.

The spokesperson added that amendments to Envi's proposal, calling for resources to be allocated for fast development, validation and introduction of alternative testing methods to replace key toxicological endpoints were "extremely important".

It was equally important that these alternative methods "received international regulatory acceptance for use in safety assessment of cosmetic ingredients and products", they added.

Developing alternatives

The US does not have a formal requirement for animal testing of cosmetic products, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does require companies to test across a range of toxicological endpoints in order to prove safety.

According to the FDA's website, animal testing by manufacturers, seeking to market new products, may be used to establish product safety. "In some cases, after considering available alternatives, companies may determine that animal testing is necessary to assure the safety of a product or ingredient," it says.

Francine Lamoriello, executive vice president of global strategies for the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC), told Chemical Watch, the cosmetics industry has invested "hundreds of millions of dollars over the past several decades to develop scientifically valid alternative safety testing methods".

She added that the PCPC encouraged FDA approval of alternatives to animal testing "as part of its principles for federal cosmetics regulatory modernisation" and was committed to "the development of additional alternative testing methodologies".

China challenge

The push for a global ban is being proposed because around 80% of the world's countries still allow animal testing and the marketing of cosmetics tested on animals. China is one country with a major cosmetics market that does not implement a ban, instead requiring products to be animal tested before being allowed on the market.

Janet Winter, CEO of the US consultancy, International Cosmetics and Regulatory Specialists, told Chemical Watch that China's mandatory animal testing requirement for imported cosmetics, was likely to be the "biggest challenge" for a global ban.

She said that industry was working with the Chinese government to eliminate their animal testing requirements and hoped that as China is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a resolution put before the UN would create "additional pressure" to rescind them.

"This is another step forward, serving to increase visibility on the issue. Industry will continue to pursue the abolition of animal testing at every opportunity, and the UN message will serve as a part of that," she said.

US-based NGO, the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS), is working with China's National Institute for Food and Drug Control (NIFDC) to improve use of non-animal tests in China.

Erin Hill of IIVS told Chemical Watch, there are "many efforts" needed in order for the Chinese government to come in line with international standards - such as acceptance of data from the OECD test guideline methods.

She said: "It may be a big leap for them to pass a ban on animal testing."

A March plenary session, at which the resolution on the ban was due to be voted on, was delayed. A European Parliament spokesperson said it will now take place in either April or May.



Tammy Lovell

Business reporter

Related Articles

- [MEPs back push for global ban on cosmetics animal testing](#)
- [EU implements ban on sale of cosmetics tested on animals](#)

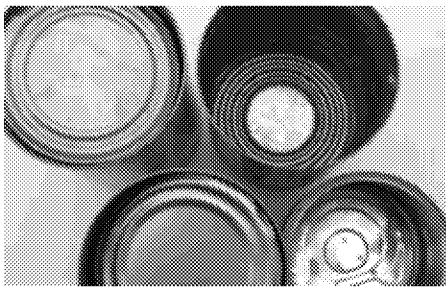
Further Information:

- [Resolution](#)

NGO urges EU phase-out of hazardous chemical groups

Report highlights BPA substitution with 'potentially harmful' BPS

29 March 2018 / Alternatives assessment & substitution, Bisphenols, Europe, Food & drink, REACH



UK-based NGO CHEM Trust has called on EU regulators to "phase out" the use of groups of similar chemicals to prevent substitution of one hazardous substance with a related one that has similar properties.

In separate letters addressed to Echa, the European Food Safety Authority (Efsa), and the European Commission's Health Commissioner, the NGO says "the only exception to this should be if industry has good data showing the chemical they wish to use does not have the same properties as those of the chemical being restricted".

The letters coincide with the publication of a report which highlights the common industry practice of substituting bisphenol A (BPA) with bisphenol S (BPS), both of which, Echa's risk assessment committee has said, may have similar toxicological [profiles](#).

BPA is already on the REACH candidate list of SVHCs on three counts. Not only is it toxic to reproduction, but it also has endocrine-disrupting properties which cause probable serious effects to human health and the [environment](#).

It is used in thermal paper till receipts – although that is facing a restriction from 2020 – as well as polycarbonate water bottles and food can linings.

Echa has started [investigating](#) BPS by asking industry for more safety data rather than regulating its use, CHEM Trust says.

Additionally, "as far as CHEM Trust is aware Efsa – responsible for assessing chemicals in food packaging – has not reexamined the toxicity of BPS or other bisphenols" the NGO says.

Report findings

According to the report – *From BPA to BPZ: a toxic soup? How companies switch from a known hazardous chemical to one with similar properties, and how regulators could stop them* – most companies selling BPS are "claiming that it has no hazards".

The report shows that people and the environment are "not being properly protected from hazardous chemicals as businesses are moving from one problem chemical in a group to another," Michael Warhurst, CHEM Trust executive director said.

"We need EU regulators to phase out groups of chemicals of concern, rather than slowly restricting one chemical at a time. We cannot continue to gamble with people's health like this."

The report is published a year after CHEM Trust's *No Brainer study*, which reviewed the evidence that a number of chemicals, including BPA and BPS, might harm brain development in children.

Recommendations

The report lists five recommendations:

- regulators should regulate groups of related chemicals, rather than take a substance by substance approach: this needs to be used in REACH and regulations such as laws on chemicals in food contact materials. Echa should also investigate the effectiveness of industry's self-classification of chemicals, and whether this is being done in accordance with the legal requirements;
- manufacturers must improve their own assessment of the safety of chemicals: it is "not acceptable", CHEM Trust says, to claim that a chemical like BPS has no hazards, when a very similar chemical is known to have substantial hazards, including endocrine disruption;
- downstream users of chemicals should not replace one "problem chemical" with another similar chemical from the same group;
- workers should ask whether they are being exposed to BPA or other bisphenols, and ask employers to move to safer non-bisphenol alternatives; and
- consumers should ask retailers whether products such as plastic bottles, till receipts and food cans are bisphenol-free, and should ensure that children do not play with till receipts.

Related Articles

- [Commission calls on Echa to monitor BPS in thermal paper](#)
- [Echa's MSC agrees BPA is an endocrine disruptor in the environment](#)
- [MSC discusses bisphenol S and cosmetic fungicide climbazole](#)
- [EU testing for developmental neurotoxicity inadequate, says CHEM Trust](#)

Further Information:

- [CHEM Trust report](#)
- [CHEM Trust press release](#)
- [Letter to Echa](#)

- [Letter to Efsa](#)
- [Letter to EU Health Commissioner](#)
- [REACH candidate list](#)

Companies likely to miss REACH 2018 'fast-track check' deadline

High number of 'exceptional case' inquiries for late test results

29 March 2018 / Data, Europe, REACH, Substance registration

2018
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An expected surge in the number of companies submitting REACH 2018 dossiers by the end of March – so as to secure a completeness check outcome on their dossiers in 21 days – does not seem likely, Echa says.

The agency had previously [warned](#) the outcome of such checks on dossiers submitted after 31 March may not arrive until August.

With two months to go until the registration deadline, Echa has received 18,037 dossiers covering 7,452 substances – 4,975 of which have not been registered before.

Overall, the agency said in comments to Chemical Watch, this is 10% behind the current 2018 deadline dossier estimations for this point in time. However, it added, the expectation has always been of a large peak in submissions during the last weeks before the deadline "so it is difficult to draw conclusions at this point".

For the 2018 deadline, 3,236 companies have filed dossiers – 544 companies are new registrants.

'Exceptional' cases

Submission inquiry and data-sharing dispute activity remains "very high", Echa said, "which is a sign that submissions are in general late".

Additionally, requests for letters of access "remain quite high" as do the number of expressions of interest received for the Directors Contact Group (DCG) solutions. This is particularly the case on the [late availability](#) of test results – "which also reflects that industry is late with the preparations and therefore submissions will arrive in the last weeks before the deadline", Echa said.

Those prospective registrants expecting late test results on their substances must secure lab testing contracts dated before 31 March in order to be considered as an "exceptional case", and to potentially be permitted to submit their dossiers after the 31 May deadline – if Echa consents.

The agency has now received around 160 expressions of interest for DCG solutions – almost all for the issue on late availability of test results. "Given the large interest we have updated the DCG webpages to make more transparent the kind of documentation that companies need to provide to apply for the DCG cases," Echa said. "It does look like this will continue to increase in the coming weeks."

Extra support

The agency has decided to open REACH-IT 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including bank holidays and weekends, so industry can continue to submit. Full Echa support is available during business hours, it said, adding it "constantly" monitors the situation.

It will run a REACH 2018 Q&A session on 19 April with a panel of experts responding to queries.

Echa says it is "ready to support" companies with all the "different difficulties" they may encounter including:

- late test results;
- issues with lead registrants and substance information exchange fora (Siefs);
- suppliers not registering; and
- data-sharing disputes.

"It is now important that companies start to submit their dossiers as soon as they are ready," the agency said. "It is also important that companies do not rush to correct their dossiers if they fail the first completeness check, but continue to focus on submitting the remainder of their dossiers.

"They get ample time to address the failure. What is important is to submit before the deadline. The dossier can validly be completed after the deadline, within the time given by Echa to address the failures."



Luke Buxton

Europe desk editor

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- [Echa offers faster REACH dossier processing before April](#)
- [New REACH registration test result deadline sparks industry concerns](#)

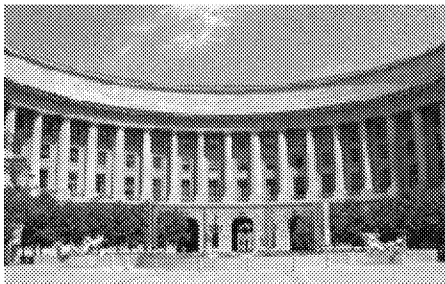
Further Information:

- [Registration statistics infographic](#)
- [Echa REACH 2018 page](#)
- [Registration Q&A session](#)

NGO scientists may reject appointment to US EPA chemical advisory panel

'Secret science' policy gives new SACC appointees pause

29 March 2018 / TSCA, United States



A recent announcement that the US EPA will be expanding the membership of its Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) has been met with concern from members of the NGO community selected to serve on it.

The SACC – which is tasked with providing expert advice on scientific matters under TSCA – was formed in the waning days of the Obama administration. Last August, the agency signalled plans to expand it.

On 23 March, the agency announced 11 new members. These include three representing NGOs, four from industry, and four from academia or governmental organisations.

But at least one of newly chosen NGO representatives has refused to participate. And Chemical Watch has learned that all three may back out over concerns that the panel may be forced to work with limited scientific data.

Michael Wilson, national director for occupational and environmental health at the BlueGreenAlliance, "notified EPA that he was unable to accept the appointment", a spokesman for the organisation told Chemical Watch.

Ruthann Rudel, director of research at the Silent Spring Institute, is debating whether to take the position she was offered.

"I haven't decided what I'm going to do yet about my appointment," she told Chemical Watch. "I'm collecting some advice and information."

And Jennifer McPartland, senior scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund, said she had not responded to an invitation to join the panel and was surprised to see her name on the list of new appointees.

"News of [EPA Administrator Scott] Pruitt's proposal to limit the science the agency can consider has given me pause," she said in an email. She is still debating whether to accept her appointment.

Dr McPartland's concern around the EPA's so-called "secret science" policy is shared among many in the NGO community.

The new transparency initiative, signalled by Mr Pruitt in an interview with a conservative news publication last week, could bar the agency from using studies that are not publicly available to underpin regulatory decisions.

NGOs said this could result in suppressing crucial data needed to take action on hazardous chemicals under TSCA.

Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals

Formation of the SACC was required by the Lautenberg Act, to provide "independent advice and expert consultation" on the scientific and technical aspects of implementing the new TSCA. Its first 18 members were named in January last year.

The American Chemistry Council criticised the picks, of which less than a quarter were industry representatives.

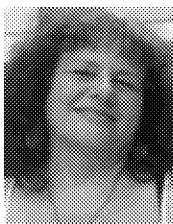
Following leadership changes to the agency under President Trump, and "after further consideration of the objectives and scope of SACC activities", the EPA said it would expand the committee.

The additional members "will increase the balance of scientific perspectives and add experts with experience in labour, public interest, animal protection, and chemical manufacturing and processing to the committee," the EPA said in its announcement.

Four of the 11 new members represent industry directly, including two of the four candidates backed by the ACC. And appointee Michael Holsapple joined the Michigan State University faculty after a long career with Dow Chemical.

The eleven new appointees are:

- Charles Barton, global manager of toxicology and risk assessment at the Valspar Corporation;
- Steven Bennett, vice president for scientific affairs at the Household and Commercial Products Association (HCPA);
- Sheri Blystone, director of regulatory affairs and product safety at SNF Holding Company;
- Susan Dempsey, risk assessor and toxicologist for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services;
- Thomas Hartung, a toxicology professor at Johns Hopkins University;
- Michael Holsapple, professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Michigan State University;
- Mark Johnson, director of toxicology at the US Army Public Health Center;
- Sidney Marlborough, senior environmental toxicologist at Noble Energy;
- Jennifer McPartland, senior scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF);
- Ruthann Rudel, director of research at the Silent Spring Institute; and
- Michael Wilson, national director for occupational and environmental health at the BlueGreenAlliance.



Julie A Miller

North American Desk Editor

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NBC Right Now

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